

GRAND COTE.

PERRY COUNTY.



SITUATED in the extreme northwestern portion of the county, lies Grand Cote Precinct. It is bounded on the north by Washington county, on the east by Beaucoup, on the south by Cutler, and on the west by Randolph county. Much of the surface, which is level, was formerly covered with timber. The only prairie is that bearing the same name as the precinct. Much of the timber remains undisturbed. The Cairo Short Line Railroad enters at section 36, passing through the precinct in a northwesterly direction, and passes out at section 7. This precinct has no water-courses. It comprises all of congressional town four south, range four, and two tiers of sections in the northern part of town five, range four. The soil is fertile and productive. Agriculture is the principal occupation of its inhabitants. The population, according to the census of 1880, was nine hundred and forty-one.

Grand Cote—from the French—meaning Beautiful Prairie, was first settled by Thomas Swanwick, who came from Chester, England, and located on the northwest quarter, and the east half of the southwest quarter of Sec. 11, T. 4, R. 4, which he had entered February 13, 1818. The lands first settled by Thomas Swanwick are now occupied by J. J. Swanwick, his son, who is past the meridian of life, a most estimable and respected citizen. With Thomas Swanwick came James McMurdo to the western county. The second settler in Grand Cote was Wm. P. Elliott, from the State of Georgia. He located on section 20, T. 4, R. 4, about the year 1820. He brought his family in the spring of 1821. Next came Jonathan Petit in the spring of 1825, from Randolph county, from what was then known as the "Irish Settlement," and located on section 30, T. 4, R. 4. In the ensuing fall Petit sold out his claim to one Absalom Wilson, a native of Washington county, Virginia, who did not move upon the lands until 1840. George Cherry, of the Chester District, South Carolina, arrived the same year, 1825, and located on section 5. He resided there until his death in March, 1867. In the year 1828, James Kirkpatrick, a native of South Carolina, settled on section 9, on lands now occupied by B. Semple. So far as we are able to learn, these men who came to Grand Cote were its original pioneers. From some cause, between the years 1829-1833, no additions were made to this little band of bold and venturesome pioneers, who formed the nucleus, in their wild and almost unbroken lands, of what is now one of the most prosperous

and refined farming communities in the little county. John White is a native of South Carolina. He came to the county in 1832, and now resides in section 6. Robert H. Allen, who lives in section 25, was born in Perry county in 1834. W. M. Adair, a merchant of Swanwick, was born in Illinois, and came to the county in 1837. Hugh Cooper of Section 9, T. 5, R. 4, was born in South Carolina, and located in Perry county in 1831. About the year 1835, a new and full tide of immigration began to pour into this settlement. Among the first was Alexander Craig, a native of Ireland, who, on his way to his western home, had stopped in South Carolina and Kentucky. He located, in 1835, on section 25, the present Craig's station on Cairo Short Line Railroad, being on the lands originally settled by him. In 1834, William Rainey came out from St. Clair county and settled on section 24. In 1836, he sold his farm to Solomon Maxwell, from Bedford county, Tennessee, the latter remaining upon it until his death. Benjamin Ragland was the eighth of the settlers in 1835. He came from Kentucky and settled on section 24. In 1836, he sold his farm to John McMillen, and again settled on section 14 of the same township. Mr. McMillen in turn sold his farm in December, 1838, to Joel Rushing, for one hundred and twenty dollars. In the year 1836, Henry H. Elliott, son of W. P. Elliott, and father of the Rev. J. C. Elliott, settled on section 13, on the farm now occupied by H. H. Rice. About the same year John Hughey settled on section 26, and Newton Franklin on section 14.

From this time the settlers flowed into the precinct very rapidly, among whom we might mention the Craigs, Justices and others, and the country was filled up almost as by magic.

Between the years 1822 and 1840 the dry goods and groceries were most generally purchased from R. G. Shuman, of the then little town of Columbus, Randolph county, better known now as Sparta, Mr. Shuman carrying on to considerable extent the grain trade, purchasing corn at Chester and shipping to New Orleans. In the year 1845 the first dry goods store was opened in this precinct by J. C. Steele, near where Swanwick station is now located. He also kept the first post-office in the precinct. In 1846 upon the breaking out of the Mexican war, he turned the store and post-office over to one, Samuel Hughey, and went into the army. John M. Woodside afterward kept the store and post-office at the same place. In 1840 Grand Cote had a shoemaker named Isaac Fowler.

In the years 1822-'23 William P. Elliott built the first

band or tug grist mill on the farm now owned by T. S. Elliott, Esq. In 1834 he replaced it by a draft mill with cog-wheel attachment. The burrs were made from granite boulders, stray waifs as it were, which were occasionally found scattered over our prairies in those early days. Both of these mills were the work of Mr. Elliott, and were very generally patronized by the neighbors for a distance of ten or fifteen miles around. The only record furnished us of the earliest preaching in that precinct, was by the Rev. Robert Moore, of the old Regular Baptist tenets, at the house of Solomon Maxwell, about the year 1841. The first school taught in Grand Cote precinct was in 1832, by James Holliday, in a little log cabin located on the S. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 30, the price of tuition being \$2 per scholar. The next school was kept by John Fulton in his kitchen on S. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 31, about the years 1836 or 1837. His schedule was the first to draw public moneys on that side of the county. David Baldrige was the county school commissioner at the time. Alexander Skelly was next in the order of school teachers in that precinct. He taught in a little log cabin built for a residence on section 13, about the year 1841; tuition \$2 per quarter.

With this concludes our early history of Grand Cote prairie. To the Rev. J. C. Elliott are we indebted for most of the information concerning this precinct. The first land entries in this precinct, in the order of their dates, were as

follows: January 18, 1819, Thomas Swanwick entered the E. $\frac{1}{2}$ of the N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$; and the S. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of section ten in town four, range four; May 27, 1819, James Parker, the N. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 29, and the S. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 20; June 7, 1821, Alexander Campbell, the W. $\frac{1}{2}$ of the S. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 32; the N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of the S. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ and the S. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of the S. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 31, all in town four south, range four.

SWANWICK.

This little village was laid out by William Moore and surveyed and platted by D. C. Benson, deputy county surveyor, May 27, 1871. Its location is the S. E. of the N. E. of section 21, township 4, range 4. It is a station on the Cairo Short Line Railroad. The present business of the village is as follows: Physician, W. H. Ferguson; general merchants, Harmon & Adair, William Gray; postmaster, William Gray; blacksmith, James Luna; carpenter, A. Shockency; grain dealers, W. Sokup; carriage maker, D. J. Woodside.

CRAIG.

This hamlet is a station on the Cairo Short Line Railroad, and is situated on the east half of Sec. 25, township 4, range 4, and on the boundary between Grand Cote and Pinckneyville. It was laid out by William Craig and surveyed and platted by William Golightly, county surveyor, October 23, 1871. The postmaster is J. Allen. A general store is kept by W. L. Pennoyer.

BIOGRAPHIES.

REV. JAMES C. ELLIOTT.

THE history of Perry and Randolph counties would be incomplete without a sketch of the Elliott family. They are the descendants of English and Scotch-Irish ancestry. Members of the family came to America prior to the Revolutionary War. William Preston Elliott, the grandfather of James C. was a native of Virginia, and one of seven brothers. He married in Virginia, and a few years later moved to Georgia. In 1814 he came to Illinois and settled in the American Bottom, in the Goshen settlement. Ague and fever prevailed to a considerable extent then, and believing that the country was unhealthy, returned to Georgia. But the rich, fertile and productive lands of Illinois had left their impression, and the old pioneer longed for the "Flesh Pots" of Illinois. He accordingly returned in 1818, and settled in Randolph county west of Sparta, on what is known as "Temple Hill," and there built a house which was the first erected there. He remained there until the spring of 1821, when he removed to the south side of Grand Cote prairie about two and a half miles south of Coulterville, where he opened a farm, and there continued the peaceful avocation of a farmer until his death, which occurred in 1840. He married Margaret Murdock of Virginia. She survived her husband a few years and died in 1843. By that union

there were eleven children, who grew to maturity. One of her sons, the father of the subject of this sketch, was named Henry Hodge Elliott. He was born in Virginia, February 18, 1801, and was but thirteen years of age when the family first settled in the American Bottom. He returned to Georgia with his father, and came back with the family to Illinois the second time, and here grew to manhood, followed farming and remained in the precinct until his death, which took place March 4th, 1872. He married Miss Margaret, daughter of James and Elizabeth (McBride) Couch. Her mother was of Scotch-Irish ancestry, born in the north of Ireland, and was but eight years of age when her parents landed in Charleston, South Carolina. Margaret (Couch) Elliott was born August 9th, 1810, and departed this life August 7th, 1847. By the union of Henry H. and Margaret Elliott there were seven children, two sons and five daughters. William P., one of the sons, was born July 31st, 1836, and died in Andersonville prison in September 1864, in his twenty-ninth year. He enlisted in Co. "C" of the 30th Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He was taken prisoner before Atlanta July 22d, 1864, sent to Andersonville prison, and there died as did thousands of others from exposure, neglect and lack of sufficient to eat.

Catharine was the eldest daughter. She was born July 24th, 1847, and died in her sixteenth year. Jane was the wife of William Gallegly. She died April 24th, 1873, in her fortieth year. She left five children. Frances Elizabeth was the wife of Joseph Lively. She died without issue April 10th, 1870, in her thirty-first year. Mary W., wife of John W. Lively, died March 14th, 1876, in her thirty-fifth year, leaving four children. Rachael C. died February 12th, 1870, in her twenty-fifth year. James Couch Elliott, the subject of this sketch, is the eldest of the family and the only survivor. He was born in Randolph county, Illinois, near Sparta, January 6th, 1830. He was reared on the farm, and acquired his primary education in the subscription schools of his neighborhood. From fifteen to twenty-one he hired out, and his wages went to the support of the family only retaining enough to clothe himself. He attended one term at the Academy in Sparta, and then taught school for several terms. At the age of twenty he entered the State University at Bloomington, Indiana, and graduated from that institution. He had resolved to enter the ministry of the United Presbyterian Church, and with that idea in view he spent three terms of seven months each in the Theological Seminary at Monmouth, Illinois. He was licensed to preach May 7th, 1862, and regularly ordained a minister of the church Oct. 7th, 1863. In the latter year he went to Wyoming in Iowa county, Wisconsin, and was the "Supply" for six months, after which he became the pastor of the Wyoming and Blue Mound United Presbyterian Congregations, and remained in charge until in February, 1868. In July of the same year he was called to the pastorate of the Bethel Congregation in Grand Cote, Perry county, and has remained in charge up to the present, a period of nearly fifteen years. On the 14th of April, 1864, he was united in marriage to Miss Lydia A. Moreland of Randolph county, Illinois. She was the daughter of James and Margaret Moreland. She died December 7th, 1873, leaving one son, named William Zwingli Elliott, now in attendance at the Academy in Coulterville, Illinois.

On the 10th of October 1876, he married Miss Maggie, daughter of Rev. James M. and Nancy (McClanahan) Henderson, of Oakdale, Washington county, Illinois. Mrs. Elliott was born near Madison City, Indiana. Politically, Mr. Elliott votes the Republican ticket, but takes no farther interest than exercising the right and duty of every American citizen by casting his ballot. He is very much in favor of prohibition, and regards the licensing of saloons, an offense against religion, good morals and the best interest of society.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM M. ADAIR

Was born in Randolph county, January 6, 1837. The family is of Scotch-Irish ancestry. His grandfather came to America from the north of Ireland, and settled in South Carolina, and there his son William was born in 1781. The latter grew to manhood, and was a soldier in the war of 1812, under Gen. Jackson. Soon after that war he came north to Illinois, and settled in Perry county, on "Six Mile Prairie;" subsequently removed to Randolph county to a place eight

miles east of Kaskaskia, on the Shawneetown road. He died in Perry county while back here looking after the improvement of land that he had entered, the date of which was in 1856. He was also a soldier in the war of 1831-32, with Black Hawk, and was major of the regiment. He was appointed Receiver of the Land office, a few years before his death, and was in that position when he died. Soon after he first came to Perry county, he married the daughter of James Brown. She died, leaving two children, one of whom is yet living. He afterwards married Mrs. Rebecca Lacey, widow of John Lacey. Her maiden name was Taggart. She was of Irish parentage, and born in South Carolina. She died in 1877, aged eighty-two years. By this marriage there were two children, twins, son and daughter. The daughter is the wife of Frank Moore, a resident of Randolph county. William Miles Adair, the son, was reared upon the farm; received a fair English education, and remained at home until the breaking out of the late war, when he enlisted for three years in company "C," of the 30th regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry. On the organization of the company he was elected Orderly Sergeant. The regiment was brigaded at Cairo, and formed a part of the 3d Brigade, 3d Division of the 17th Army Corps, Gen. McPherson commanding. The regiment received its first baptism of fire at the battle of Belmont, and subsequently participated in the capture of Forts Donaldson and Henry, siege of Corinth; marched to Jackson; was in the battle of Brittain's Lane, in Tennessee, then to Memphis and to Vicksburg; took part in the siege and capture, and in the meantime was in the battle of Champion Hills. While at Vicksburg the 30th regiment veteranized, then came home on a furlough; returned and was in the Atlanta campaign, and in the fight before Atlanta, on the 22d of July, 1864, Mr. Adair was taken prisoner, and was held until the 1st of September, of the same year, when under an arrangement between the Generals of the Union and Rebel armies, he and others that were captured were exchanged. He joined Sherman's forces, and then went with him in his memorable march to the sea, up through the Carolinas and to Washington, where he participated in the Grand Review. The company was mustered out at Somerville, and finally discharged at Springfield, July 17, 1865, having been in the service a few days lacking four years. He enlisted August 20, 1861. He entered as a private; was elected Orderly Sergeant, commissioned 2d Lieutenant, January 28, 1862; 1st Lieutenant, May 16, 1863, and commissioned Captain of the Company, August 20, 1864. Captain Adair was in every battle and skirmish in which his company and regiment participated, except those occurring when he was a prisoner, which was only a few weeks. After the war he returned to Randolph county, and engaged in farming. In 1872 he came to Perry county, and he continued in same avocation up to 1880, when he came to the village of Swanwick, and engaged in mercantile business, in which he still continues. He married Miss Parthena, daughter of John and Florinda (Uhles) Harmon. She was born in Randolph county, September 11, 1844, and died March 10, 1882, leaving no children. Capt. Adair is a member of the United Presbyterian church. Politically he has always

since casting his first vote, been a Democrat. This in brief is an outline history of Capt. William M. Adair. He was

a gallant and brave soldier, and old settler, and an honest and upright citizen.

SOUTH WESTERN.

PERRY COUNTY.



THIS precinct is situated in the southwestern corner of the county. It is bounded on the north by Cutler, on the east by Pinckneyville, on the south by Jackson county, and on the west by Randolph county. Pipestone creek furnishes ample drainage and water supply. The surface is undulating and the soil fertile. The St. Louis and Cairo Railroad crosses the southwest corner of this precinct.

By the last census, in 1880, the precinct had a population of one thousand and eighty-nine.

Among the first settlers, as early as 1817, were Simon Williard, who located on section two, town six south, range four, where he entered, January 19th, 1819, 504.60 acres of land. James Craine settled on the northeast quarter of section thirteen, of the same town and range; and became the owner of the tract of one hundred and sixty acres by entering the same at the land office in Kaskaskia, May 14th, 1818. Benjamin Brown was also one of the settlers of this precinct in 1817. We find him making his home on the west half of the southeast quarter of section eleven, town six south, range four west, which he entered, January 14th, 1819. Richard Green, Robert Johnson, Robert Crow, with their families, were also living in this locality at the same time, and together with William H. Threlkel, Robert Gillihan, Jacob Short and John Stuart were leading characters in the early history of the county. They were natives of New York, Kentucky and Tennessee. Stephen Kelly was also an early pioneer. Alexander A. Watkins, a farmer and stock raiser, who resides in section 19, township 6, range 3, is a native of Tennessee, and came to the county in 1839.

The first dry goods, groceries etc., shoes, plows, and wagons were bought of Lyborger and Reed, at Kaskaskia, previous to 1827. Much of the trading was done with Col. Jones, of Georgetown, Randolph county, between 1827 and 1840. The first dry goods and grocery store in this precinct was kept in 1827 by a man named Jacob Short. The first blacksmith shop was kept by John McClure, in 1839. There was a wagon shop in 1850, kept by Gadbuy. John McClure had the first plow shop in the precinct. The first band grist mill was built here by a man named Willard, in 1819. It did pretty good work for a mill of its kind, for a period of nine or ten years. In 1834 a good many of the settlers had their milling done at Riley's Mill, in Kaskaskia. They also had milling done at Glide's mill in Georgetown

about 1834. Dickey P. Smith was the first preacher in the county. In 1830 the Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in this precinct, consisting of ten members. The name of the minister who organized the church was French. They held their meetings in a small school-house, where Denmark now stands. In 1835 the Methodist Episcopal denomination built their first church near Denmark. The first Sabbath-school was held in this precinct in 1859, with twenty-eight scholars; it was the work of the Associate Reformed Presbyterians. Robert Crow and Green Derrington were teachers. The first school taught in this precinct was in 1825, by a man named Robert Clark, near the present residence of Francis Smith. The first school-house was built in 1825, out of round logs. Weight poles were used to hold the roof on. The books used were the American Preceptor, English Reader, and Columbian Orator. The school lasted from three to six months. Tuition rated from \$2.00 to \$2.50 per quarter. The writing paper was coarse, unruled, and goose-quill pens and maple bark ink were used.

Land entries of South Western precinct: April 25th, 1815, William McIntosh entered three hundred and twenty acres in the N. $\frac{1}{2}$ of section 3. February 5th, 1818, Jonathan Bowerman entered the E. $\frac{1}{2}$ of the N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 6, seventy-nine and twenty-hundredths acres. August 12th, 1818, the same entered the E. $\frac{1}{2}$ of N. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 6, eighty-seven and sixty-four hundredths acres.

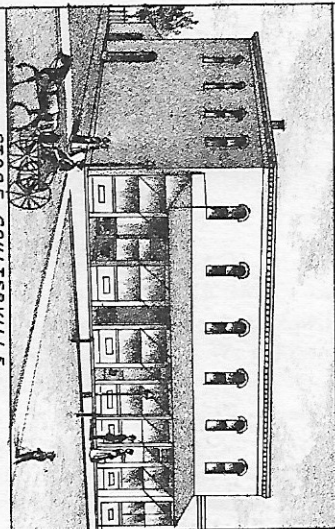
DENMARK.

The little hamlet of Denmark, is situated in the western part of South Western precinct, the nearest railroad station being Cutler, some five miles distant. The town was laid out by John D. Rees, on the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section twenty-four, in town six south, range four west, and was surveyed and platted by Robert Steele, county surveyor, on the first day of April, 1860. It formerly bore the euphonious name of "Jack Town."

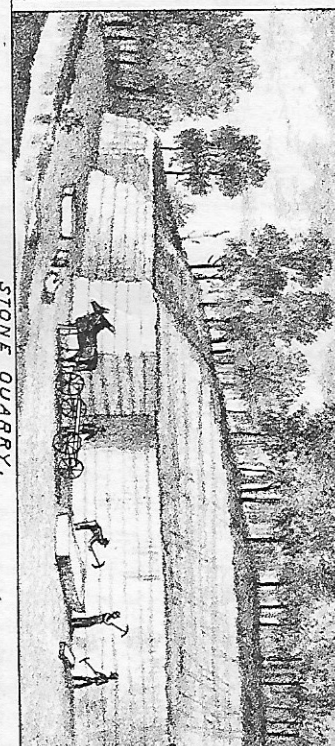
The first house was built by John D. Rees, whose family, and those of several Canadian-French, were the first to settle in that section. The house was a small frame. John D. Rees opened the first store, and the post-office was kept by Brown. There are two handsome church buildings in the town, belonging respectively, to the Presbyterian and Baptist denominations. Also a neat school-house.

PRESENT BUSINESS.

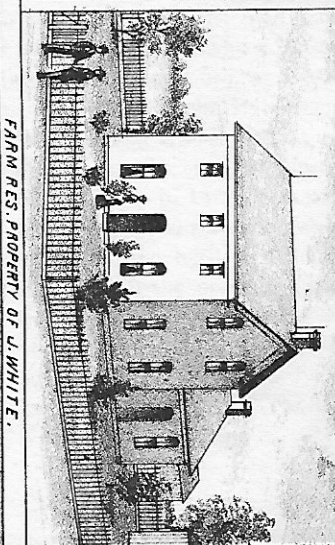
Postmistress.—Mary Rees. *General Store.*—William Boan. *Wagonmaker.*—James Eaton. *Blacksmith.*—J. L. Tessier. *Dressmaker.*—Mary Rees.



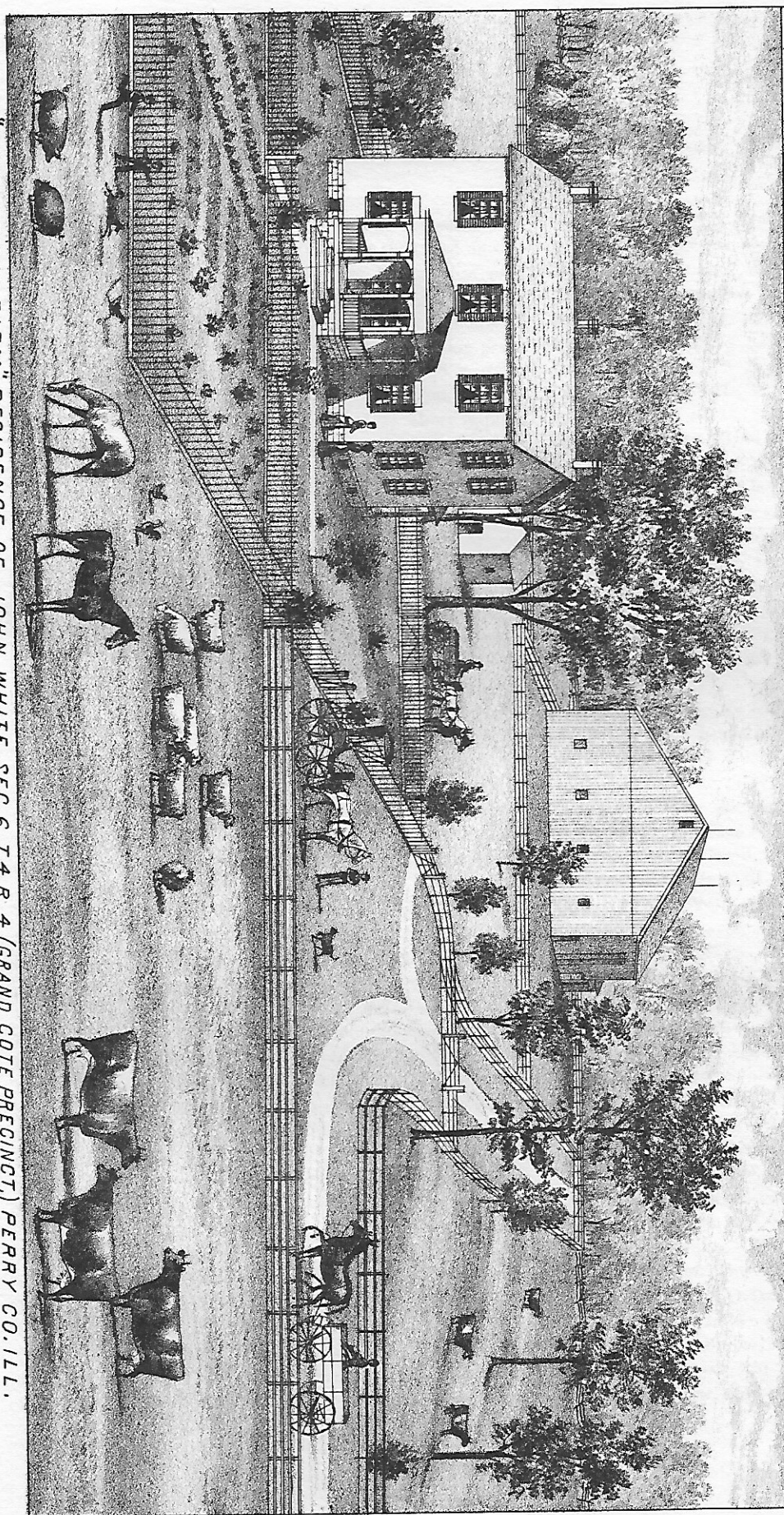
STORE, COULTERVILLE.



STONE QUARRY.



FARM RES. PROPERTY OF J. WHITE.



"ROCK BRANCH FARM," RESIDENCE OF JOHN WHITE, SEC. 6, T. 4, R. 4, (GRAND COTE PRECINCT,) PERRY CO., ILL.